

IN THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An ink supply system, comprising:

an ink supply means which supplies ink in an ink container to an ink fountain where the ink is temporarily stored between a first point in time when the ink is discharged from an ink container and a second point in time when the ink is supplied to the inner peripheral surface of a printing drum, drum;

an ink amount detecting means which outputs an ink supply starting signal when the amount of ink in the ink fountain supplied by the ink supply means becomes smaller than a predetermined first threshold value and an ink supply terminating signal when the amount of ink in the ink fountain becomes not smaller than a predetermined second threshold ~~value, value;~~

a time measuring means which measures ~~an the elapsing-elapsed~~ time from the time the ink supply starting signal is output from the ink amount detecting ~~means, means;~~

an empty ink container recognizing means which recognizes that the ink container is exhausted when the ~~elapsing-elapsed~~ time measured by the time measuring means becomes longer than a predetermined inkless time before the ink supply terminating signal is ~~output, output;~~ and

an ink supply control means which starts the ink supply means supplying the ink in response to the ink supply starting signal and stops the ink supply means from supplying the ink in response to the ink supply terminating signal,

wherein the improvement comprises that the empty ink container recognizing means reads out numeric information a parameter from a storage means which is provided on the ink container to store numeric information for setting a parameter ~~representing an inkless time~~ corresponding to the kind of ~~the ink in the ink container,~~ and sets the inkless time on the basis of the ~~parameter~~numeric information.

8. (Currently Amended) An ink supply system, comprising:

an ink supply means which supplies ink in an ink container to an ink fountain where the ink is temporarily stored between a first point in time when the ink is discharged from an ink container and a second point in time when the ink is supplied to an inner peripheral surface of a printing drum,

an ink amount detecting means which outputs an ink supply starting signal when the amount of ink in the ink fountain supplied by the ink supply means becomes smaller than a predetermined first threshold value and an ink supply terminating signal when the amount of ink in the ink fountain becomes not smaller than a predetermined second threshold value,

a time measuring means which measures the elapsed time from the time the ink supply starting signal is output from the ink amount detecting means,

an empty ink container recognizing means which recognizes that the ink container is exhausted when the elapsed time measured by the time measuring means becomes longer than a predetermined inkless time before the ink supply terminating signal is output, and

an ink supply control means which starts the ink supply means supplying the ink in response to the ink supply starting signal and stops the ink supply means from supplying the ink in response to the ink supply terminating signal,

wherein the improvement comprises that the empty ink container recognizing means reads out a parameter from a storage means which is provided on the ink container to store a parameter representing an inkless time corresponding to the kind of ink in the ink container, and sets the inkless time on the basis of the parameter, and

wherein the ink supply system as defined in claim 7 further comprises a ceasing time measuring means which measures a ceasing time from interruption of the action of the printing drum and resumption of the same,

wherein the parameter stored in the storage means represents an inkless time corresponding to the ceasing time and the kind of the ink in the ink container, and

the empty ink container recognizing means sets the inkless time on the basis of the parameter.

9. (Currently Amended) An ink supply system as defined in claim 7 in which the kind of ~~the ink~~ represents ~~the~~ a viscosity of the ink.

10. (Currently Amended) An ink supply system as defined in claim 8 in which ~~the~~ a kind of ~~the ink~~ represents ~~the~~ a viscosity of the ink.

11. (Currently Amended) An ink container which is used for carrying out an ink supply method where supply of ink from an ink container to an ink fountain where the ink is temporarily stored between a first point in time when the ink is discharged from an ink container and a second point in time when the ink is supplied to the inner peripheral surface of a printing drum is started when the amount of ink in the ink fountain becomes smaller than a first threshold value and is terminated when the amount of ink in the ink fountain becomes not smaller than a second threshold value after the supply of ink is started, ~~the elapsing~~ elapsed time from the start of the supply of ink is measured, it is recognized that the ink container is exhausted when the measured ~~elapsing~~ elapsed time from the start of the supply of ink becomes longer than a predetermined inkless time before the amount of ink in the ink fountain becomes not smaller than the second threshold value after the supply of ink is started, a numeric information parameter is read out from a storage means which is provided on the ink container to store a numeric information for setting parameter ~~representing an inkless time corresponding to the~~ a kind of the ink in the ink container, and the inkless time is set on the basis of the numeric information parameter, comprising a storage means which stores the numeric information for setting a parameter ~~representing an inkless time corresponding to the kind of the ink~~ therein.

12. (Currently Amended) An ink container as defined in Claim 11 in which the kind of ~~the ink~~ represents ~~the~~ a viscosity of the ink.

13. (Currently Amended) An ink container which is used for carrying out an ink supply method where supply of ink from an ink container to an ink fountain where the ink is temporarily stored between a first point in time when the ink is discharged from ~~an~~ the ink container and a

second point in time when the ink is supplied to the an inner peripheral surface of a printing drum is started when the an amount of ink in the ink fountain becomes smaller than a first threshold value and is terminated when the amount of ink in the ink fountain becomes not smaller than a second threshold value after the supply of ink is started, the an elapsing-elapsed time from the start of the supply of ink is measured, it is recognized that the ink container is exhausted when the measured elapsing-elapsed time from the start of the supply of ink becomes longer than a predetermined inkless time before the amount of ink in the ink fountain becomes not smaller than the second threshold value after the supply of ink is started, a ceasing time from interruption of printing to resumption of the printing is measured, a parameter corresponding to the measured ceasing time is read out from a storage means which is provided on the ink container to store a parameter representing an inkless time corresponding to a kind of ink in the ink container and the ceasing time, and the inkless time is set on the basis of the parameter, comprising a storage means which stores a parameter representing an inkless time corresponding to the ceasing time and the kind of the ink in the ink container.

14. (Currently Amended) An ink container as defined in Claim 13 in which the kind of the ink represents the a viscosity of the ink.